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A true

NARRATIVE

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

Sessions-house

IN THE

OLD-BAYLY;

From *Friday* the 14th of this Instant *January*, to *Munday* the 17th; being a full and true Account of the Tryals, Examinations, and Condemnations of several Malefactors, for several Crimes.

And also an Account of the Tryal of four several persons for committing four several Murthers. A Man for killing a Bayliff, a Boy for killing his Fellow-prentice, a Man for killing his Fellow-workman, and another for killing a Man in *Black friers*.

With an Account how many are Condemn'd, how many Burn'd in the Hand, to be Transported, Whipt at the Carts tail, and to stand in the Pillory.

With Permission, *Roger L'Estrange.*

LONDON: Printed for *D. M.* in the Year 1676.

A true

NARRATIVE

Of the Proceedings at the Sessions-house

IN THE

OLD-BAYLY.

I Shall, with as much brevity and truth as may be, give you a candid account of the trials of the several Prisoners at the *Old-Bayly*; and begin first with an Irish man servant to a Person of Quality, who was indicted for stealing two hundred pounds from his said Master; but though some circumstances seem'd to stick close to him, yet he was acquitted by the Jury.

The next were two Youngsters that came to a Pastery-cook's house, and called for a Chamber and a Fire, and there continued till they had ordered their business, so as to take two Silver Tankards away with them: one went out of the door, and the other out of the window by a small Rope. The first was taken and tried, and found guilty; the last escaped with the Booty.

After this a Milliner was indicted for breaking open a shop in *Covent garden*; but the principal Evidence was

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was one who had encouraged the ſufferers to proſecute the ſaid Millener; but in regard ſeveral pieces of Ribbin were found in the Milleners ſhop, that were taken out of the ſaid ſhop in *Covent garden*: the Judge gave orders for another Bill to be drawn againſt the Milliner, and that he ſhould be indicted as an acceſſary, upon which he was found guilty.

After this, one was indicted for ſtealing ſeveral Sheep, four of which were found in his cuſtody, and alſo the skins of many more; ſo that he pleaded guilty to all Felonies within the benefit of the Clergy upon his firſt Indictment.

The next was one who was arraigned and tried for a Burglary committed in the houſe of a perſon of quality in the Pariſh of St. *Giles's* in the Fields; he running from thence was ſtopped by a Blackamore: but nothing being taken away, he was acquitted.

After this a woman was indicted, for that ſhe together with two men, not yet taken, went into a houſe in the City, and pretended themſelves perſons of quality, one of the men ſaying he was Steward to a perſon of Honour, and the other a Gentleman newly come from *Ireland*; they deſired Lodgings, and their requeſts were anſwered, and at night, it being *Chriſtmas* time, they deſired to play a game at Cards, for their divertiſement, with their Landlord, and he to oblidge them readily compli'd; but the Landlady being gone a goſſiping or viſiting, and none left but her Husband and theſe new-come-gentlefolks at home, they deſired him to ſend out for ſome Double Beer for them; he ſtept to the next door and bid the Maid bring it in: after that they called for Wine, and he ſent the ſame

Maid to fetch it; then a little after they desired that he would fetch them some more Double Beer himself, and as soon as he was gone they took a Candle and run up stairs to his Chamber and broke his Closet open, and took from thence a silver Tankard and Money, to the value of twenty pounds, and left him only a light upon the stairs to see his losses: Away march'd they, but some days after this woman was met with and brought, to Newgate, and from thence to the Bar, where she pleaded that one of the men that took away the Money and Plate was her Husband, and produced a Certificate from the Parson of *Pancrass* to affirm it; but the Jury supposing it to be counterfeit, found her guilty, and the chiefest comfort she is like to have is transportation.

Now follows a bloody Murther committed by one in *Whitechappel*; as soon as a Bayliff had told him that he arrested him, he with a strange Weapon run the Officer into the belly, and made a pass at another, but though he miss his body, he hit his clothes: This Hector with new supplies, was quickly secur'd; and when one told him that he had kill'd the Bayliff, he repli'd, if I have not I wish I had, and being sent from the Justice of Peace to Newgate, he told his Guard, if he had not killed him he should have gone to Prison on foot, but now in a Coach; but for all he made so slight on't then, he was in a more serious and sensible humour at the Bar, and labour'd to excuse it with all the Rhetorick he had, and all was too little, for the Jury brought him in guilty, and *Jack Ketch* will make him free.

Another unhappy Murther happened at *Westmin-*

ster

ſter by the diſcord of two young Lads, who quarrel'd about cutting their Apron-ſtrings, being Shoomakers, the younger not knowing how to revenge himſelf, took a threepeny Knife and ſtabb'd the other, who run out of the Shop with his Bowels in his hands, cri'd, Lord have mercie upon my Soul, *Daniel* has kill'd me. The Lord Chief Baron after he had heard the Evidence, wiſh'd the Jury to conſider whether the boy underſtood what he had done or not, he being but thirteen years and a month old, the Jury afterwards brought him in guilty of Man's Slaughter.

Then a woman was indicted for High-treaſon; ſhe came into a ſhop and deſired the Maſter thereof to give her two ſixpences for a ſhilling, he took the ſhilling, and perceiving it to be clipt, told her that ſhe deſerved to be queſtioned how ſhe came by it; upon which ſhe run out of the ſhop as faſt as ſhe could, then perſuite was made after her, and ſhe was overtaken and brought back and carried before a Juſtice of Peace, who upon Examination, ſaid, her Husband gave it to her; they asked where ſhe lodged, and having found her Lodgings out, they found Pots and Sheers, and other neceſſaries for that Imployment; but in regard they rather ſuppoſed her abſent Husband to be guilty than her; the Jury favourably brought her in not guilty.

After this, another was indicted for killing one at *Clarendon houſe* with a Saw; he was making a Tool, and the deceaſed told him he ſhould make none there, the other ſaid he would; then the deceaſed ſtruck at him two or three times, which occaſioned the other to ſtrike him upon the arm with a Mallet, which he was

then

then using, the deceased challeng'd the other to fight, but he desired quietness, and would not; then the deceased went to lock him in, the other prevented him by being too quick; then he giving some more blows, the other struck him with the back of a Saw which he had in his hand, and his Hat being off he split his skull almost to his brains, of which wound he died in a little time; and in regard, it did not appear to be a premeditated Quarrel, the Offender was only found guilty of Manslaughter.

Another was tried for Murther, who happened into a house in *Black fryers* with a young man: After breakfast was ended, they had a few quarrelsome words; he that was kill'd affronted the other both in words and blows, and not being satisfi'd with that, urged him to wrestle with him, who refus'd it and left the room; then he followed him and continued his abuses so long till at last he threw him down two or three times; they parted then, and he that occasion'd the quarrel was arrested the next day; and continuing in a poor condition upon the boards, and induring other hardship he died; so that one made affidavit that the deceased charged him that quarrelled with him, for the murthering of him, by throwing him down several times and falling upon him, but the Chyrurgeon clear'd him of that guilt, who supposed it a natural death, therefore he was acquitted.

Readers, what can subdue, what can assuage
The bloody hands of man thus sinful age?
A fervent Prayer from a religious heart
These and far greater Judgments can divert.

Then

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Then labour hard for ſuch a frame as this,
By which you Heav'n may gain, and Hell may miſs.

A Youg-man and Woman were tried for a Fellony committed by them at *Wapping*, the Woman being entertained as a Servant, did the next day run away with a Silver Tankard, a Farrenden-gown, and many other things. The Gentlewoman miſſing them, uſed all the endeavours ſhe could to procure them, and employing a Thief-catcher, by the deſcription given of her, he directed her ro the Servant-Maid that ſtole them from her; who being apprehended told them where they were pawn'd and ſold, and how the Young man bid her ſell them, and if ſhe was queſtioned, he would come to juſtifie that the Goods belonged to her Miſtreſs, who employed her to ſell them. There being proof enough to make him appear an Acceſſary, they were both found guilty of Fellony.

A Porter was tryed for Burglary, but it appeared that the Woman proſecuted him out of envy; for ſhe ſaid, that he came and broke open her Houſe one Morning; whereas others of more repute ſaid, That he was very familiar with her, and that ſame Night did continue with her from Five at Night till Seven in the Morning, and he pawn'd his Silver Ticket for Five Shillings, and ſent for Six Penny worth of Ale, and call'd in a Black-Pudding man to give her a Treat. Several Perſons ſpoke in his behalf, and ſaid, That he was a very honeſt man: And there being no proof that he had taken any thing from her, he was acquitted.

There

There was an *Irishman* tryed for a Cheat, which was as follows, He with a Footman came to a Watch-makers Shop, and desired to see some Watches for his Master; after he had seen several, he pitch'd upon two, and desired that he would carry them or send them to his Master, he therefore sent his man with them, the one being a gold the other a silver Watch, and when they came to the *Temple* he desired to carry them up to his Master, whom he pretended was in bed, but as soon as he had got them he run away with them; the other persued him, and afterwards brought him to a Justice of Peace, and he committed him to Prison, and upon his Tryal was found guilty of the Cheat.

There were three men and three women condemned, four ordered to be transported, and sixteen burn'd in the hand, and five to be whipt at the Carts tail, and the said Cheat design'd for the Pillory.

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